

**Serial Number: 09/501,643**

analysis.

One commercially available flow cytometer which relies on a hydrodynamically focused fluid system is known as the FACScan™ instrument sold by Becton Dickinson Immunocytometry Systems, San Jose, Calif. The FACScan™ instrument rapidly analyzes cells on the basis of fluorescence and light scatter properties. Analysis is accomplished by introducing cells in a suspension to the center of a focused liquid stream thus causing them to pass, one at a time, through a focused light from a high powered laser. Each cell is individually characterized by its light scatter signals and by the intensity and color of fluorescence emitted while it is illuminated. This system is described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,844,610 issued Jul. 4, 1989 to North, U.S. Pat. No. 5,030,022 issued Jul. 9, 1991 to North and U.S. Pat. No. 5,040,890 issued Aug. 20, 1991 to North.

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